

DEDICATED NURSES TO RECEIVE AMBULANCE PATIENTS INITIATIVE (2008/09)

Approval has been provided by the government for one-time funding of up to \$4.5 million in 2008/09 to 14 municipalities experiencing the most serious and persistent off-load delays so they can negotiate agreements with some of their hospitals for dedicated nurses to receive ambulance patients.

Description:

This initiative provides one-time funding to the most affected municipal EMS agencies to assist them in dealing with persistent ambulance off-load delays by contracting with affected hospitals for dedicated nursing services in hospital ERs for ambulance patients. The dedicated nurse(s) will be employed by the hospital(s) to receive ambulance patients, thus freeing ambulances to better respond to 911 calls.

For this year the ministry will fund up to 14 municipalities under a Memorandum of Agreement and the municipalities will in turn enter into local agreements with hospitals to purchase services of dedicated nurses for receiving ambulance patients during the key off-load delay time periods.

This initiative is a component of the ministry's 'Reducing Alternate Level of Care and Emergency Room Pressures Through Enhanced Care for Seniors' strategy. Funding will be provided to municipalities on a 100%, one-time basis for 2008-2009. Participating municipalities and hospitals will have an opportunity prior to March 2009 to provide the Ministry with information in support of extending the initiative for up to a one-year.

Implementing dedicated nursing to receive ambulance patients provides relief to off-load delays while a longer-term solution under the ER Wait Time Strategy is developed and implemented.

Memorandum of Agreement:

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) will be established between the ministry and each funded municipality, with two performance measures:

1. ambulance off-load delay times
2. ambulance unit hours availability

Subsequently, separate agreements between each municipality and their targeted hospitals will be negotiated for dedicated nursing services to receive ambulance patients.

Participating Municipalities for 2008-2009

LHIN	Municipality (2008/09)
Toronto Central	City of Toronto
Champlain	City of Ottawa
Hamilton NHB	Hamilton
Central West	Region of Peel
Mississauga Halton	Region of Halton
Central East	Region of Durham
Central	Region of York
South West	County of Middlesex
Erie St. Clair	County of Essex
North East	Greater Sudbury
Central East	County of Peterborough
Hamilton NHB	Region of Niagara
Waterloo-Wellington	Region of Waterloo
South East	County of Frontenac